

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

I have disabled the long distance on my land line to forgo the unlimited liability of the billing of long distance to an account that I have agreed to, but the company still charges as if they supplied access although they will remove protested charges. Because I do not access the long distance by this method the proposed changes in the rules will cause me to pay more for something that I will not use.

I advocate the prohibition of third party charges by the telephone company unless specifically authorised - the same as banks do for paying bills, this would shut down many fraud operations and unauthorised charges from the physical line. Security by obscurity is not secure.

If the volume method of taxing telephones is not possible then the combination plan is a more fair system. As VoIP kills the phone company's the only people left paying will be those that will or can not change so the volume transmitted will go up but the voice will go down and the assigned numbers will have little connection to the number of customers so again - I advocate taxing volume on the long haul lines.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

Dennis Johnson
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